**American Government**

**Ch. 10: Congress - The Legislative Branch**

***Instructions: Answer the following questions from the chapters 10-12.***

1. What is the basic function of the national legislature?

2. What does the term “bicameral” mean?

3. Why did the framers want a bicameral legislature?

4. What is the length of a term of congress?

5. How is each term numbered?

6. What changes did the 20th Amendment create?

7. What doe we mean by the term “session” of Congress?

8. How many sessions are there to each term?

9. Explain the following as they relate to Congress:

a. Convenes

b. Adjourns

c. Recess

10. What does Article II, Section 3 provide for?

11. Who may call a special session of Congress?

12. What is the size of the House of Representatives? Who set this

number?

13. What does the Constitution provide for in reference to the total seats

in the House of Representatives?

14. Is anyone else represented in the House except for the 50 states?

Explain.

15. What does Article I, Section 2, Clause 1 provide?

16. What is the term of a member of the House of Representatives?

17. What is the term limit for a member of the House?

18. What does Article I provide for in terms of reapportionment?

19. Explain the 4 provisions of the Reapportionment Act of 1929.

20. Who is able to vote in congressional elections?

21. Who decides the time, place, and manner of election according to

Article I, Section 4, Clause 1?

22. Since 1872, what has been the decision of Congress as to the date

of congressional elections? Be specific. Are there any exceptions to

the date?

23. What doe we mean by the phrase “off year elections?” When is the

next off year election?

24. What two methods of election did Congress allow each state?

Explain each.

1)

2)

25. Which method was cast aside in 1842?

26. Explain each of the provisions of law by Congress which reflected

clarifications of how congressional districts should be drawn.

1. 1842:
2. 1872:
3. 1901

27. What is “gerrymandering?”

28. What two forms does gerrymandering take?

1)

2)

29. What is the goal of gerrymandering by the party in power?

30. What has been the historical circumstance of representation in

state legislatures due to drawing of districts?

31. What was the decision of the court in *Wesberry v. Sanders,* 1964?

32. What impact did this court case have on the makeup of the House,

on the content of public policy, and on the shape of electoral politics

in general?

33. How have the courts ruled about gerrymandering based solely on

race?

34. What are the formal qualifications for members of the House of

Representatives?

35. What are the informal qualifications?

36. How are challenges to the qualifications of House members settled?

37. What significance did the court case *Powell v. McCormack* have?

38. What is the size of the United States Senate?

39. What did the Framers of the U.S. government envision in respect to

the role of the U.S. Senate?

40. How were the members of the Senate originally chosen?

41. What did ratification of the 17th Amendment provide for in 1913?

42. What is the term of a U.S. senator?

43. What is the term limit of a U.S. senator?

44. Explain how election of the senate is set up?

45. Why is it perceived that the Senate has more prestige than the

House?

46. What are the formal qualifications for a senator?

47. How are qualifications of senators challenged?

48. What is the ethnic, gender, and religious breakdown of the present

Congress? (The one given in the book is not the current Congress!)

49. What are the five major roles of members of both houses of

Congress?

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

50. Explain the four voting options of lawmakers.

1)

2)

3)

4)

51. Explain the following terms associated with committee members:

1) bills

2) floor consideration

3) oversight function

52. How is compensation for members of Congress decided?

53. What is the **current** salary for each of the following? (Research it)

1) Senator and Representative

2) Speaker of the House

3) Vice President

4) President pro tem of the Senate and floor leaders

54. What nonsalary compensation do members of the Congress receive?

55. What are the only two real limits on the level of congressional pay?

56. What membership privileges do members of Congress receive?